

of the

L. WILSON EVANS, M.C., M.B., D.P.H.

for the year 1941.



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The Whitchurch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

As for last year the Ministry of Health has decided that the report for 1941 should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office Held.	Whole or Part time.
L. Wilson Evans	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part
M.W. Sowden	M.I.M. & Cy.E.	Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.	Whole

MITCHURCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1941.

Birth Rate	17.7
Birth Rate England and Wales	14.2

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births	86
England and Wales	59

Nine of the infant deaths were due to prematurity
congenital conditions and birth injuries.

Still Births rate per 1,000 population	0.65
England and Wales	0.51

Death Rate	11.9
England and Wales	12.9

Chief Causes of Death.

Heart Disease	22	M. 11	F. 11
Cancer	11	M. 6	F. 5
Kidney Diseases	11	M. 4	F. 7

Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1
Deaths from Diphtheria	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	Nil
Maternal Deaths	Nil

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notification of Infectious Disease.

	No. of cases.	No. admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	8	2	-
Diphtheria	4	3	1
Measles	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	15	-	1
Dysentery	1	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	2	2	-
Putrid Pyrexia	1	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	1
Cerebrospinal Fever	Nil	-	-

Although the four cases of Diphtheria occurred in August none of
them appeared to be connected. Two of them were evacuated children.

The child who died had only arrived in the town the day before she was taken ill. There was unfortunately delay on obtaining the necessary treatment. None of the children had been immunised. The two cases of Paratyphoid Fever occurred within a few days of one another and at a time when there were a number of cases in the County and Country generally. The two cases appeared to have no possible common source of infection. It is almost certain that neither water nor milk was the cause. The Scarlet Fever was of a mild form.

The cases were fairly scattered throughout the year. Three of the eight cases were adults.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children who received two injections.

Under 5 years of age	86
Over 5 years of age	804
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	890

Although the Council adopted a scheme of immunisation in 1936 very few children had been protected against the disease up to the end of 1940. In December of that year it was decided to send letters to all parents through the schools and Welfare Centre and despite an active newspaper campaign by the Anti-vivisection Society there was a prompt and considerable response and by the end of 1941 66% of the school children had been immunised. This figure would have been higher but for the very low figures of the two evacuated schools, one of which had only 2 children immunised out of 115, and the other 37% immunised but these are now on the way to being improved. Of the five churches the percentage was 82.

Grindley Brook School had 100% immunised.

The Boys' C.E. had 94% immunised.

The Girls' C.E. had 93% immunised.

Of the 24 districts in the County your district had the third highest percentage for children over 5 years and second of the 14 urban districts while for children under 5 years it was twelfth and eighth respectively. The general practitioners have wholeheartedly co-operated in the scheme and have carried out the immunisation without undue delay. They readily agreed to do the work on a sessional basis at a time when this had not been generally adopted, which resulted in a considerable saving in the cost. The school nurse, Mrs. Laurence has been of great assistance in the carrying out of the work.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory.

Non-Respiratory.

New Notifications.		Deaths.		New Notifications.		Deaths.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	2	-	4	2	-	1
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
1		2		6		1	
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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Water Supply.

Average daily consumption 248,414 gallons.

Decrease in daily consumption of 9,828 gallons.

There has been no shortage of water.

A scheme submitted by the Council to the Ministry of Health for an auxiliary pumping station did not receive approval.

Rainfall.

21.29 inches a decrease of 10.48 inches on last year. This was one of the lowest on record. The average over a period of 25 years is 28.62 inches.

Housing.

No great difficulty has been experienced in having any required repairs to dwellings executed.

Premises where food is prepared or stored.

In one case where the washing facilities were not adequate these were provided without delay on the serving of a notice.

Meat.

The two slaughterhouses used by the Ministry of Food are inspected regularly and carcasses found to be defective are disposed of as necessary.

The difficulties referred to in my last Annual Report still exist and it is probable that some such arrangement as then suggested will have to be considered.